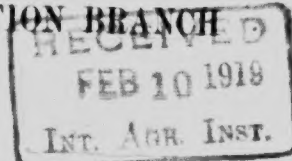


BULLETIN NO. 42

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION BRANCH



SUGGESTED LINES
— OF —
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION

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CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION

GENERAL

The co-operative marketing of grain and of dairy products has been practiced in Saskatchewan for several years and has proven highly satisfactory, as is evidenced not only by the ever increasing number of co-operative elevators and creameries, but also by the fact that during the past year, in several communities, an effort has been made to apply the same principle to the marketing of live stock. Co-operative purchasing has also been developed to a considerable degree, first, through the locals of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and, more recently, through the Registered Agricultural Co-operative Associations, but up to the present little or nothing in the way of co-operative production has been attempted. In the early years in this province, how to market the grain crop to the best advantage was the most important problem which confronted the farmers. It was natural that, when a solution of the problem was found by applying the principles of co-operation, the same remedy should be applied to the purchasing side of the farmers' business; but few communities seem to have realised that corresponding advantages, equally if not more important, could be secured through united effort in production.

A study of co-operative production in Great Britain, Denmark and other European countries reveals the fact that organisation for a specific purpose concentrates and directs every energy towards that end, tending to harmonise the minds of the co-operators and centre them on the project, with the result that, if feasible, the undertaking is soon accomplished. Such organisation imparts new interest to the producer and secures for him the counsel of the brightest and keenest of his associates. At the same time it places the producer in a position to obtain the most up-to-date information in regard to his business and to keep posted on all that appertains to success in the work.

The principal advantages which can be secured through co-operation in production may be summed up as follows:

1. More and better produce can be produced.
2. These products, being uniform in kind and quality, and available in large quantities within a restricted area, can be marketed to better advantage.
3. New interest in production is aroused and up-to-date information is made available to the producer.

Co-operative producing associations now play a very important part in many of the States of the American Union, as well as in various countries in Europe, and the object of this bulletin is to point out lines of work which might with advantage be undertaken in this way in Saskatchewan, imparting at the same time some information in regard to the methods of operation found most successful by similar organisations in other places.

COMMUNITY BREEDING ASSOCIATIONS

Of the various lines of agricultural production which might be undertaken in a co-operative way, the improvement of live stock and the building up of a reputation for the production of certain breeds in given districts through the establishment of community breeding associations is one from which much can be expected in Saskatchewan. Cattle raising was once the principal business of the west, and while grain growing is now the chief occupation of the people, there are many evidences that, as the years go by, more and more stock will be kept on the farms of this province. Stock can pasture the greater part of the year, and while some winter stabling may be necessary, our soil and climate are such that an abundance of coarse grain and fodder suited to stock feeding can be grown in all parts of the province. Moreover, the majority of our farmers come from races which for centuries have been noted for their achievements in stock production, so that our people have a natural aptitude for the business. During the past few years there has been a decided revival in the interest shown in stock keeping and it would appear that this is an opportune time to establish community breeding associations in many districts, as it is much easier to start aright at the beginning than to build up an association after a number of different types of animals have been introduced.

Community breeding associations are organisations through which farmers in a given district unite to develop one or more special breeds of live stock in their locality and to establish a reputation for the district as a breeding centre for that particular kind of stock. These associations seek to attain their object by selecting some particular breed suited to their district and then following a systematic breeding plan. Herds are tested, inferior or diseased animals are weeded out, high quality, pure bred sires of the breed selected are purchased (either collectively or individually), and are used only on good females. Speakers are obtained from the agricultural colleges, or other sources, to advise the members in their work; association sales and shows are held, and every means used to improve the stock and bring the district to the attention of the public. The chief advantages gained through the association are:

1. Much greater progress can be made in improving the stock of the community by the organised work of the association, which follows systematically, year after year, a well thought out plan, than is possible when each breeder follows his own changing ideas.
2. The establishment of breeding centres will attract buyers because good stock of a certain breed can there be obtained in large quantities.
3. Increased economy, where the herds are small, through the joint use of sires.
4. The greatest use possible can be made of a good sire, because he can be retained for a long period simply by exchanging from one group to another, thereby avoiding inbreeding.

DOUGLAS COUNTY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

An account of the organisation and work of a typical breeding association will perhaps be the best method of conveying a clear idea of how these concerns are conducted. The writer recently visited Alexandria, Minnesota, the headquarters of the Douglas County Breeders' Association, one of the most successful breeding associations in Minnesota, and the following information was obtained from farmers who are members of the association.

The Douglas County Breeders' Association was organised in the spring of 1909 as a result of a number of institute meetings held in the county, under the auspices of the Agricultural Extension Department of the University of Minnesota, during the preceding fall and winter. Its objects, as set forth in the constitution of the association, are: "To promote the breeding and improvement of high grade and pure bred Holstein and Guernsey cattle in Douglas County, and to aid its members in buying, using and selling such stock." At the outset the intention was to confine its activities to the Holstein breed, but subsequently a number of farmers wished to take up the breeding of Guernsey cattle, so it was decided that as both breeds were to be handled in the same manner, the one association could handle the business for both. At the present time the association has some seventy members, who are divided into fourteen groups, ten of which breed Guernsey cattle and four Holstein. Each group consists of members living within such distances of each other that they can all conveniently make use of the one sire. The number of members in the various groups vary from two to nineteen, and each group makes its own arrangements in regard to the care of the sire, the service fees charged members, etc. In many cases a farmer with a large herd keeps the bull free of charge, considering that the convenience of having the sire at hand is sufficient remuneration. Each group subscribes the capital to purchase its first sire, but the purchasing of sires for the whole association is done by a committee of the directors of the association. All of the bulls are shown each year at the Douglas County Fair, and every two years the sires are exchanged between the groups so as to prevent inbreeding. (The four groups breeding Holsteins exchange within themselves and the groups breeding Guerneys exchange among themselves.)

The association has adopted a comprehensive set of bylaws to govern the breeding operations of its members and these are rigidly enforced. Among other provisions these require that none but pure bred sires of the breed selected shall be used on the herds of members; that all grade males shall be killed for beef and that for a set period none of the females produced from the association's sires shall be sold outside of the association.

The success of the association has been pronounced. Organised in 1909 with eleven groups, it now has fourteen, and not one of its members has ever withdrawn from the association unless removing from the district or going out of stock raising. All of the farmers interviewed by the writer were more than pleased with the work of the association, and stated that the improvement in their stock was marked. In fact, so well pleased are the members that in two of the groups, an auxiliary organisation for the breeding of hogs on the same lines has been established, and is said to be proving equally beneficial. As an indication of the

stimulating influence which this co-operative enterprise has had on the dairy industry in Douglas County, it is of interest to note that in 1909 there was not one silo in the county, in 1910 three were built by members of the breeding association and now there are over one hundred silos in the county.

NORTHFIELD BREEDING ASSOCIATION.

The association just described is typical of the organisations in which sires are owned collectively. There is another type of community breeding association which is, perhaps, more suited to the older settled districts, or to communities where the size of the farms or of the herds makes collective ownership impossible. In these the farmers in a district get together and decide that they will all keep the one breed of stock, and organise to aid each other in producing and selling. Each member buys his own sire, but all follow a definite plan in breeding and aid each other in selling.

The writer visited a very successful association of this type at Northfield, Minnesota. This association, which has been in operation for twenty years, has made Northfield famous as the greatest Holstein breeding centre in the Western States. At the present time there are 270 farmers residing within a radius of fifteen miles of Northfield who are breeding Holstein cattle. These men own 290 pure bred Holstein bulls, over 500 pure bred females and upwards of 7,000 high quality grade females of that breed. This association carries a half page advertisement in several of the leading live stock journals the year round, the names and addresses of members having stock for sale and the kind of stock which each has to offer being listed. In addition to this they have an agreement that if a member does not have the kind of animal which a prospective customer wants, the member will take the customer around to the farms of other members where the desired animal can be obtained, and will be paid at the rate of \$5 per day by the member from whom the customer finally purchases.

Associations conducted in this way have the advantage that there is no danger of spreading contagious abortion and other infectious diseases, but the type first outlined is certainly the most economical and also that most likely to bring about rapid improvement in the stock of the community.

Apart from the benefits previously mentioned, breeding associations can do much to combat disease in the communities where they operate. In Europe associations usually employ a veterinarian to test every animal in each member's herd for tuberculosis. All diseased stock is discarded and all animals purchased must be accompanied by a certificate of health. The adoption of such a system by our stockmen would do much to stamp out tuberculosis and to educate the people in regard to the cause and treatment of other diseases, the importance of proper ventilation, lighting, etc., all of which would tend towards the production of better animals and increase the profits from stock raising.

In like manner, if an association were breeding dairy stock, systematic testing for milk and butter fat production could be undertaken to advantage. Every up-to-date dairy community realises that the scales and the Babcock test furnish the only certain method of determining which are the profitable animals in the herd. The advanced registry

records of the various dairy breeds have established beyond doubt that milk producing powers are transmitted and that the mating together of animals from high producing strains will result in still greater producing abilities in their offspring. Consequently it would appear that systematic testing to determine producing ability is indispensable to the highest success of a breeding association which has for its object the improvement of dairy cat^{le}.

ORGANISING AN ASSOCIATION.

The first step towards organising a community breeding association would be to arrange a meeting to be attended by all of the stock men in the district to discuss the project, decide on a breed of stock which all could raise to advantage and plan their future work.

It is decided that the association shall be of the type in which the collective ownership of sires is practised, it would be advisable to have the organisation incorporated under The Agricultural Co-operative Associations Act, as that would give each shareholder greater security than if a purely partnership organisation were effected. The cost of registering an association is only \$4.50 and both constitution and bylaws will be drafted, free of charge, by the Co-operative Organisation Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, from whom all necessary forms and information can be obtained upon request.

Should the association decide to operate on the individual ownership plan and organise without capital, it would be necessary to draw up a constitution and bylaws outlining the objects of the organisation, defining its sphere of action, providing for the holding of meetings, the election and duties of officers and regulating all matters connected with its work. A committee should be appointed to attend to the drafting of these regulations, which should be carefully prepared and submitted for the consideration of the members at a subsequent meeting. Drafts of suitable constitutions and bylaws can be obtained free on request from the Co-operative Organisation Branch.

SUGGESTED BYLAWS.

The following are suggested as being suitable bylaws for the regulation of a breeding association which practises collective ownership of sires:

- (1) The association shall be divided into sections, said sections to contain approximately fifty cows each, and a pure bred bull of the breed shall be purchased by the association and placed at the disposal of the members in each section. In arranging the sections care shall be exercised to make the division so that no member will be put to undue inconvenience in regard to distance, etc.
- (2) The members in each section shall select one of their number to have charge of the sire allotted to their section.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the member having charge of the sire to provide comfortable and sanitary quarters for the animal and to keep it in a clean, healthy and thrifty condition; under no circumstances shall he allow the animal to run with a herd.
- (4) Members in charge of sires shall keep a record of all services and report the same to the secretary at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.
- (5) Members shall be charged for breeding services at the rate of for each cow bred. The charge to nonmembers shall be two dollars per cow. These fees shall be collected at the time of service by the member in charge of the sire and shall be paid by him to the secretary of the association at the time when the annual report on services is rendered.
- (6) Sires shall be exchanged between sections at two year intervals so that inbreeding shall not be practised.

(7) The directors of the association shall have charge of the purchase, allotment and sale of the association's sires subject to the following regulations:

(a) No sires shall be purchased under six months of age or used for service under twelve months of age.

(b) Sires under two years of age shall not be used for more than half of the service required of a mature sire, *e.g.*, not more than twenty-five cows.

(c) Sires purchased shall not be closely related.

(8) Should the sire allotted to any section be lost through death, or prove unserviceable, the association shall provide another animal forthwith.

(9) The secretary of the association shall hold all papers of registration, and keep a record showing the allotment of sires to the different sections and their exchanges.

SEED GROWING CENTRES

The possibility of organising a large number of seed growing centres in Saskatchewan is worthy of serious consideration. Co-operation in the growing and marketing of seed corn has been practised with great success in the American Corn Belt for years and more recently the establishment of seed growing centres in Ontario and the maritime provinces has done much to increase the yield and improve the quality of the crops produced there, incidentally bringing increased returns to the farming community in general and to the seed growers in particular.

Saskatchewan possesses certain natural advantages of climate and soil which should make the growing of farm seeds with us highly profitable. In the first place, our soil is rich in fertility. This condition always results not only in large yields, but also in increased vitality and great productivity in the seed produced, so that seed grown here should prove most satisfactory for use in the East and South where the soil is not so rich.

As evidence that this is the case we might cite an experiment made by the Dominion Experimental Farm. In 1910, seed of several varieties of potatoes was taken from the Indian Head Experimental Farm and planted on the Ottawa Farm beside potatoes of the same varieties, but grown from seed produced at Ottawa. When the crop was harvested it was found that the western seed yielded almost treble as much as the Ottawa seed. (See report of Dominion Experimental Farm, 1911, page 128.)

Similar results have been obtained by sowing Saskatchewan grown oats in Iowa, Kansas and other American states, as has been admitted by seed experts who explain the difference in yield by stating that it is due partly to the richness of Saskatchewan's soil and partly to the fact that the seed was grown in a northern clime.

Another natural advantage in favour of Saskatchewan as a seed producing country is the fact that we have large tracts of new land, free from weeds. Purity from weed seeds is almost as important as reproducing power in farm seeds, and Saskatchewan's ability to produce clean, strong seed gives her a distinct advantage over longer settled provinces or states.

Again there are certain regions in the province which are better adapted to the production of some kinds of seed than are other parts. For instance, the comparatively dry climate and light soil of some sections of south-western Saskatchewan are admirably adapted to the production of high quality alfalfa seed, while the heavier soil and more humid climate of the north-eastern portion is favourable for the growing of first class oats or timothy seed.

THE HOME MARKET FOR SEED.

Another point worthy of note in this connection is the fact that there is a great home market for many kinds of seed and that nothing but home grown seed can properly meet the requirements of that market. Every year large tracts of new land are being brought under cultivation, and more

and more land is being seeded to hay and pasture. To get the best results, home grown seed must be used on this land, for while our seed will do well in a warmer climate, seed produced there would not be hardy enough, nor early enough to meet our needs. It is surely of great importance that this need should be met and met at once, before the farmers have been discouraged from growing some of the new kinds of crops through the failure of imported seed, which because of the climate and conditions under which it was produced, was doomed to failure before it was planted. To meet this need, to bring in greater returns to those who will devote special attention to seed production and to create a greater interest in the whole question of crop raising, co-operative seed growing centres should be organised throughout the province.

OBJECTS OF SEED GROWING CENTRES.

The object of the seed growing centre is to aid its members in producing choice seed in commercial quantities and to act as a selling agent through which they can combine to sell to the best advantage. The method usually followed is for as many farmers as possible in a given district to unite to grow some crop for the production of which their district is particularly suited.

The Ontario seed growing centres are all affiliated with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and follow its plan of hand selection and seed plot multiplication. The work of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is so well and favourably known that there is no need for comment on it here, except to state that seed centres organising in Saskatchewan would be wise to follow the lead of those in Ontario by adopting its plan of work and affiliating with it.

The advantages which a seed growing centre would obtain through such action may be briefly summarised as follows:

1. It would carry on its work on a plan which has been tried and proven satisfactory.
2. It would gain recognition for its seed from seedsmen in all parts of the country.
3. The Canadian Seed Growers' Association would make the necessary inspection and issue certificates as to purity on the same terms as for members of the association.
4. The centre would have all of its seed which is eligible for registration catalogued in the association's regular price list and thus secure wide publicity.

The system followed is for the members to decide on some special variety of a crop suited to their locality. Then registered seed of the variety selected is obtained for each as a start. One or two of the members who are in a position to give special attention to the work undertake to grow a special seed plot of at least one-quarter acre each year, from which they will select, by hand, a sufficient quantity of heads to sow a seed plot of equal size the following year, the heads being subsequently threshed by hand and every precaution taken to prevent admixture with other sorts. After the hand-selected heads have been taken from the seed plots, the remaining grain is threshed and is known as Elite stock seed.

This grain is sold to the other members of the centre at a price agreed upon by the centre and these members in turn will sell the grain which they produce from it to the public through the officers and under the name of the centre, provided that the seed, when inspected, is accepted for registration by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. In short, one or two members produce Elite stock seed to supply the seed for the other members, who in turn produce registered seed which they sell through the association at advantageous prices.

A seed growing centre which affiliates with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is not required to pay any membership fee, but for each visit for inspection of seed grown by members in a regularly organised seed centre, a charge of \$1 will be made. When the seed is actually inspected in the sack and the sack sealed, an additional charge of 2 cents per bushel will be made for any quantity up to 200 bushels. Over that amount the charge is 1c per bushel, or \$4 per day, as the member prefers, for each day the inspector is on the premises.

A copy of the catalogue of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association can be obtained on request, from the secretary of the association, Canadian Building, Ottawa. This gives a list of parties having registered seed for sale, with full information in regard to price, variety, etc. When a seed centre has been organised, application for affiliation should be made to the same address, and through that office arrangements regarding inspection of grain must be made.

The following constitution and bylaws have been approved by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and if adopted and carried out by a regularly organised seed growing centre will render eligible for registration all seed produced by the organisation.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

NAME.

Article 1.—This organisation shall be known as the..... Seed Centre.

OBJECTS.

Article 2.—The object of the seed centre shall be the production and sale of registered seed of uniform quality.

OFFICERS.

Article 3.—The officers shall consist of a president, secretary treasurer and three or more directors, to be elected by the vote of the members.

Article 4.—The officers and directors shall constitute the board of directors which shall have entire control of the local affairs of the centre, subject always to the general rules of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

MEMBERSHIP.

Article 5.—The organisation shall consist of farmers living within such a radius of..... as may be defined in accordance with Article No. 11. Members may be elected at any regular meeting of the centre, and must pay into the centre an entrance fee of \$..... and such annual fees as the centre may consider necessary.

Article 6.—The majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

President.

Article 7.—It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings, decide questions of order and direct the general affairs of the centre. He shall have power to vote, and in case of a tie, shall give a casting vote.

Secretary Treasurer.

The secretary treasurer shall keep a true record of the transactions of the centre. He shall conduct all correspondence and prepare all reports, including the annual report. He shall have the power of managing director, acting under the control and with the approval of the board of directors. By virtue of his office he shall be a member of each committee. He shall receive all moneys belonging to the centre and shall keep an accurate account of the same. He shall pay all bills and accounts approved by the board of directors, and shall furnish, when requested to do so, a statement in detail of the affairs of the centre. He shall be remunerated for his services as may be decided upon by a vote of the directors at a regular meeting.

Article 8.—The officers of the centre shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are appointed.

MEETINGS.

Article 9.—The annual meeting of the centre shall be held in.....(name of month) of each year, and not later than the.....day of the month, at a time and place fixed by the board of directors. At the annual meeting the report of the board of directors, together with the report of the auditor, shall be presented, and such other business shall be conducted as may be decided upon by the board of directors.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

Article 10.—For the annual, general or special meetings, a notice of at least one week in advance shall be given, naming the place, the day and the hour of the meeting. This notice shall be sent each member by circular letter. Meetings of the board of directors may be called at any time.

SIZE OF CENTRE.

Article 11.—The area included in any centre shall not be of greater extent than will enable every member to have easy and frequent access to a seed plot. The Canadian Seed Growers' Association may define limitations based on the report of the inspector.

PRODUCTION OF ELITE STOCK SEED.

Article 12.—The centre shall supply every member each year, or as often as is necessary, with the same stock of "Elite seed" or first generation "registered seed." With all crops except wheat, oats and barley, the production of Elite stock seed shall be made by one member, in order to maintain uniformity, but it is recommended that Elite stock seed be sown on two or more farms in order to guard against the possibility of any one first generation multiplying field being destroyed. With the approval of the centre more than one grower in the case of wheat, oats and barley, or other self-fertilising class of crop, may produce Elite stock seed, provided that all such growers start with the same foundation stock.

The member, or members, producing Elite stock seed shall supply the other members with either Elite stock seed or first generation registered seed at a price agreed upon by the centre, subject to the seed being accepted for registration by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

A centre may operate with only one *variety* of any kind of crop.

CLEANING AND HANDLING OF REGISTERED SEED.

Article 13.—In the cleaning and handling of seed for registration, members of the centre shall follow the general directions of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and shall send to that association representative samples of the seed they are offering, at such times as they may be called upon to do so. The decision of the executive of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association as to whether or not a given sample shall be accepted for registration will be final.

SALE OF REGISTERED SEED.

Article 14.—All registered seed grown by members of the centre must be offered for sale *under the name of the centre*, and the registration tag to be attached to the sack by the inspector must be signed by the secretary of the centre.

Members of the centre shall endeavour to establish and maintain a reputation for reliability and fair dealing. Any member who may be found guilty of misrepresentation or fraud may be expelled from the centre by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting of the centre.

Article 15.—The constitution and bylaws of this centre shall bind the centre and its members as if they had placed their hands and seals to the constitution.

AMENDMENTS.

Article 16.—These articles may be amended at any regular meeting of the members by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided that notice of such amendments is given by the secretary in the call for the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

CO-OPERATIVE EGG CIRCLES

Egg circles are organisations through which poultry keepers unite with the object of increasing the returns from their business by producing strictly fresh eggs and marketing them as such. Statistics show that the improper handling of eggs in Canada results each year in a loss to the farming community of upwards of \$1,000,000, besides causing both inconvenience and annoyance to the consuming public. This loss is occasioned by the lack of proper care on the farm and faulty storage while in the hands of the retail merchants who take eggs in payment for goods. The egg circles avoid these losses by the following means:

1. Practicing proper methods of production.
2. Proper handling and storage on the farm.
3. Marketing at regular and frequent intervals, and by the shortest route from producer to consumer.
4. Sale in commercial units (such as the 30 dozen box).
5. The use of a stamp or trade mark.

COMMERCIAL EGGS SHOULD BE INFERTILE.

A searching inquiry into the egg trade has revealed the fact that 50 per cent. of the loss in connection with the business is due to partial incubation of fertile eggs. A temperature of 70 degrees is sufficient to cause the germ to commence to grow, and under ordinary conditions serious deterioration soon follows. Infertile eggs do not, however, deteriorate from the effects of ordinary temperatures. Few poultry keepers seem to realise this fact and, consequently, little effort is made to produce infertile eggs. In fact, many persons are under the impression that the presence of a male bird in the flock is essential if a large number of eggs is to be obtained. Experiments, however, have shown that flocks without males have produced as many, if not more, eggs than when the males were present. The egg circles, recognising the importance of these facts, insure high quality in their product by requiring that, during the summer months at least, no male birds shall be allowed to run with the flocks of members.

OTHER SOURCES OF LOSS.

Much of the loss in connection with the egg trade is directly due to the conditions under which the eggs are produced on many farms. Quite frequently only a very poor building is provided as accommodation for the flock. Food is supplied at irregular intervals and little or no attention is given. The egg circles prevent this by awakening an interest in poultry keeping and by obtaining qualified speakers from the agricultural colleges, or elsewhere, who advise the members in regard to the best breeds to keep, the best methods of handling, etc. In addition, regulations are adopted which require that the poultry houses and nests must be kept clean and sanitary, that no nest egg which would taint the new laid egg may be used

and that the eggs shall be gathered from the nests daily and stored while on the farm in a cool room where they will be protected from dampness and foul odours.

A certain amount of deterioration always follows if eggs are kept for a considerable length of time. Some of the contents of the egg will evaporate and while decay may not commence, the eggs will ultimately become stale. To prevent loss from this cause the egg circle requires that its members market their eggs at frequent intervals, in most cases no eggs being accepted that are more than a week old. A manager is appointed by the board of directors and each member brings in his eggs and delivers them to the manager on certain set days, two days being usually set apart in each week. It is the manager's duty to receive and market the eggs for the circle and to apportion the returns among the members in proportion to the quantities and quality supplied.

Having large quantities of eggs delivered at regular intervals, the manager is in a position to sell by the thirty dozen crate. That is the quantity in which eggs are usually handled by the wholesale and retail trade, and by selling in crates of that size, better prices can be obtained than would be the case if smaller or ununiform lots were marketed. Moreover, cheaper freight or express rates can be obtained on shipments forwarded in crates of that size, so that by co-operating in marketing considerable increase in price can be obtained.

The egg circles aim to attain their object by placing only choice eggs on the market, and these they stamp with a trade mark which serves the double purpose of advertising the circles and providing a means whereby each egg can be traced to the member by whose flock it was produced, so that members supplying inferior eggs may be penalised. The stamps used generally bear the name of the circle and a number by which the member may be identified; in some cases a date stamp is also attached. It is only through the reputation which the circle builds up and the consequent recognition of its brand, or trade mark, that the most enduring results may be obtained, consequently care should be taken to admit as members only those who will abide faithfully by the regulations of the circle, and that by no chance inferior eggs be allowed to bear the circle's stamp.

MARKETING EGGS.

Egg circles which are in a position to supply eggs, guaranteed as to quality, can usually find a satisfactory market with the best retail grocers in the nearest city. A good market can frequently be found with city hospitals, colleges, large hotels and other institutions which are in a position to use the entire output from a circle. It should be borne in mind, however, that it is the circle which is in a position to guarantee a stated number of dozen per week *the year round*, which will obtain the best price. Statistics compiled in Eastern Canada, where the egg circle movement has made considerable progress show that the prices realised by circles, during the spring and early summer, did not greatly exceed those paid in the local store, but during the rest of the year they obtained a considerable premium.

As an example of what can be accomplished in Saskatchewan, the following data, with reference to the organisation and work of an egg circle which has been operating at Lloydminster since the spring of 1913, may be of interest. This circle was organised along the lines previously

described. A membership fee of one dollar (\$1.00) was charged and the funds thus obtained were invested in egg crates. Arrangements were made with a local storekeeper to have him receive, pack, ship and sell the eggs. From the first the eggs have been in great demand. The circle guaranteed them strictly fresh, and the number on every egg provided a means whereby any unsound egg could be traced to the producer. High quality being insured the consumers were quite willing to pay a premium for the eggs and the result was that the members of the circle received 5 cents a dozen above the market price throughout the entire season. At one time 17 thirty-dozen crates were being shipped per week, but the buyer (an Edmonton grocer) wrote that he could handle twice as many. The 5 cent per dozen premium, on the 17 crates, meant a clear gain of over \$25 per week to the members of the association. During the first season 3,872 dozen eggs were sold at an average price of 29½ cents per dozen. The results for 1914 are not available at the time of writing, but there is every evidence that continued success is attending the work of the circle. If such results can be obtained at Lloydminster why not in your district?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

The following is a suggestion as a suitable constitution and bylaws for an egg circle operating in Saskatchewan.

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.

Article 1.—The name of this organisation shall be.....Egg Circle.

PLACE.

Article 2.—The place of operation shall be in the vicinity of.....and all regular and special meetings shall be held in.....

TIME.

Article 3.—The time over which this organisation shall extend shall be indefinite (or have a set time as may be desired).

OBJECT.

Article 4.—The object of the circle shall be to increase the profits of poultry keeping by the co-operative marketing of strictly fresh eggs.

MEMBERSHIP.

Article 5.—Any poultry raiser desirous of making use of the marketing facilities afforded by the circle may be admitted to membership upon paying a membership fee of (\$1 suggested), and agreeing to be governed by the bylaws of this organisation.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Article 6.—An annual meeting of the circle shall be held each year in the month of.....

ELECTIONS.

Article 7.—All elections shall be by secret ballot.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Article 8.—At the first general meeting, a board of six directors shall be elected by and from the members of the circle. Two directors shall be elected to hold office

until the first annual meeting. Two directors shall be elected to hold office until the second annual meeting, and the remaining directors shall hold office until the third annual meeting. At each annual meeting two directors shall be elected to replace the retiring directors. Directors so elected at any annual meeting shall hold office for three years.

OFFICERS.

Article 9.—The officers of the circle shall be a president and vice president, and these shall be elected by the directors from among themselves at the first board meeting after the annual meeting.

APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF SECRETARY TREASURER.

Article 10.—The directors shall appoint as secretary treasurer and business manager a person qualified for the position who may or may not be a member of the board of directors. He shall have charge of the collection and sale of all eggs and shall apportion the returns among the members according to the quantity received, and shall be responsible at all times to the board of directors. He shall keep a record of the proceedings at all meetings and of all receipts and disbursements, and report the condition of the finances annually or as often as the directors shall desire. His remuneration shall, from time to time, be fixed by the board of directors and may be by way of salary or commission.

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

Article 11.—The president shall preside at all meetings. He shall call meetings of the board and members when necessary and shall advise with and render such assistance to the manager as may be in his power. In his absence the vice president shall have and exercise all the rights and powers of the president.

VACANCIES.

Article 12.—When a vacancy shall occur through any cause in any of the offices established by the constitution and bylaws of this organisation it shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting of the board of directors.

AUDIT.

Article 13.—The books of the circle shall be audited each year before the date of the annual meeting and an auditor for the current year shall be elected at the annual meeting.

AMENDMENTS.

Article 14.—Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote when a ten days' notice has been given by announcement mailed to the members.

BYLAWS.

Article 15.—Bylaws and rules governing the operation of the circle may be made from time to time in the manner prescribed for making amendments to this constitution.

QUORUM.

Article 16.—At any general or special meeting one-fifth in number of the registered members shall constitute a quorum. At a directors' meeting a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.

SUGGESTED BYLAWS FOR AN EGG CIRCLE.

No. 1.—All members of the circle shall be subject to the following regulations:

(a) Members shall deliver their eggs at such time and place as may be determined by the board of directors.

(b) Before being delivered all eggs must be stamped, on the broad end, with a stamp supplied by the board of directors. The stamp is the property of the circle and must be returned to the manager when membership ceases.

(c) Only clean unbroken eggs of good size weighing pounds per dozen ($1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds suggested) will be accepted.

(d) Members shall gather the eggs from the nests daily and deliver them to the manager before they are eight days old.

- (e) While in the possession of the producer, eggs must be kept in a cool room free from draughts, dampness and foul odours.
 - (f) Members shall not allow any male birds to run with flocks from which eggs are being sold through the circle.
 - (g) Poultry houses and nests must be kept clean and sanitary.
 - (h) No nest egg that will taint the new laid eggs must be used.
 - (i) Members shall not dispose of eggs stamped with the stamp of the circle except through the circle.
 - (j) No member shall be permitted to dispose of eggs, through the circle, from hens other than his own.
- No. 2.—In case the members do not observe the rules of the circle a system of fines may be adopted and enforced by the directors.
- No. 3.—These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the circle by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

BEEF RINGS

How to provide a supply of fresh meat for summer consumption on the farm is a problem which is causing much concern on many Saskatchewan farms. In the past salt or brine cured meat has been largely used, but this soon pails on the palate and it is felt that some means of providing a regular supply of fresh meat must be found. In some of our rural communities where the associative instinct has been developed this want has been satisfied through the establishment of beef rings, and the results obtained from these organisations have been so satisfactory that it is felt that the scheme is worthy of a trial in many other districts. This material has been prepared to aid parties desirous of organising such rings

METHOD OF OPERATION.

Beef rings are local organisations through which a number of farmers (usually 16 or 20) unite to provide fresh beef for their own tables. Each member supplies an animal in his turn, as determined by lot. One member is appointed butcher and under his direction an animal is slaughtered each week and the carcass is systematically divided among the members. The 20 member ring operating for twenty weeks, from May 1st or 15th, is usually the most satisfactory, as it supplies meat through the harvest season, which is really the time when it is most needed.

For a 20 member ring the animals supplied should dress between 400 and 600 pounds, thus supplying each member with between 20 and 30 pounds of meat per week. If this quantity is too large for some families, two small families may take one share between them and supply only one animal. An exceptionally large household, which could use a double quantity of meat, could take two shares and supply two animals.

A fixed price per pound is usually set at the annual meeting. Each member is credited at that price with the dressed weight of the animal he supplies and charged at the same price for all meat which he receives, settlement being usually made from the butcher's accounts at the close of each season. Some rings require that all animals supplied up to the end of the second week in June shall be stall fed. As it costs more to produce these than the grass fed animals which will be supplied during the rest of the season, a premium of two or three cents per pound over the regular price is paid and charged for this meat.

The animal to be slaughtered should be delivered to the butcher at least twelve hours before the time set for killing and should not be allowed to have any solid food for at least twenty-four hours prior to killing. Friday evening is the usual time selected for slaughtering. The carcass is allowed to cool over night and is cut up early Saturday morning. In the cutting up it is so divided that each member will receive a roast, a boiling piece and a steak. The members, or their representatives, come to the butcher on Saturday morning and receive their allotted shares. Three or four farmers living close together may take turns in delivering the meat for the group and thus realise a considerable saving.

The financial outlay involved in the operation of a beef ring is small. For his services, in slaughtering the animal, dividing the carcass and

keeping account of the quantities of meat received and supplied, the butcher usually receives the hide and a set fee of one or two dollars per head. This fee is paid by the member supplying the animal at the time it is delivered for slaughter. In addition to this a small annual membership fee is usually charged, the funds from this source being invested in equipment, such as the derrick for raising the carcass, butcher knives, saws, meat hooks, etc. A frame shed in which the meat can be placed after it is cut up is often provided. The secretary requires a supply of stationery, the butcher needs an account book, etc., these are all paid for from the annual membership fee.

Beef rings have been successfully operated for several years in different parts of the province, and if reasonable care is exercised in selecting trustworthy members there is no reason why similar success should not attend their inauguration in other districts. If you wish to organise such a ring in your locality talk the matter over with your neighbours, call a meeting of those interested, adopt a constitution and bylaws, elect your officers and get the scheme under way at once so that members who may not have suitable animals on hand may have an opportunity to procure them before the season's operations begin.

The following constitution and bylaws are suggested as being suitable for the regulation of a beef ring.

CONSTITUTION FOR A BEEF RING.

NAME.

Article 1.—The name of this organisation shall be The
Co-operative Beef Ring.

OBJECT.

Article 2.—The object of this organisation shall be to furnish the members with fresh beef at regular weekly intervals during the summer season.

PLACE.

Article 3.—The place of operation shall be in the vicinity of and all regular and special meetings shall be held at

TIME.

Article 4.—The time over which this organisation shall extend shall be indefinite (or state a number of years as may be desired).

MEMBERSHIP.

Article 5.—Any person resident in the vicinity of may be admitted to membership in this beef ring upon payment of the annual membership fee of (\$1 suggested) and subscribing to the constitution and bylaws.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Article 6.—An annual meeting of this beef ring shall be held each year in the month of, at such time and place as may be determined by the officers.

ELECTIONS.

Article 7.—All elections shall be by secret ballot.

OFFICERS.

Article 8.—The officers of the ring shall be a president, vice president and secretary treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually by and from the members of the ring at the annual meeting and, unless removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a duly called special meeting, they shall hold office for one year.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Article 9.—The duties of the president, vice president and secretary treasurer shall be such as usually pertain to those offices.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Article 10.—The president may, when he deems necessary, and shall, upon receipt of a requisition in writing from five members, call a special meeting of the ring.

VACANCIES.

Article 11.—When a vacancy shall occur through any cause in any of the offices established by the constitution and bylaws of this ring it shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting of the ring.

AUDIT.

Article 12.—The books of the ring shall be audited each year before the date of the annual meeting, and an auditor for the current year shall be elected at the annual meeting.

AMENDMENTS.

Article 13.—Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present provided that ten days' notice of the meeting, specifying the proposed change in the constitution has been given by announcement mailed to the members.

BYLAWS.

Article 14.—Bylaws governing the operation of the ring may be made from time to time in the manner prescribed for making amendments to the constitution.

QUORUM.

Article 15.—Seven members shall constitute a quorum and may transact any business which may properly come before the meeting.

SUGGESTED BYLAWS FOR A BEEF RING.

1. At the annual meeting a person qualified for the position shall be appointed butcher, and upon him the following duties shall devolve:

- (a) He shall examine all animals supplied by members and may reject any animal which in his opinion does not conform with the regulations of the ring, or is unsuited for the purpose, but such rejection shall be subject to an appeal to the officers of the ring.
- (b) He shall slaughter the animals supplied at the time appointed and shall weigh the carcass when dressed and credit the member supplying the animal with the weight.
- (c) He shall divide the carcass among the members, according to the plan adopted giving each member as nearly as he can judge an equal portion and keep strict account of the amount furnished each member.
- (d) At the end of each season he shall furnish to the secretary treasurer at least three weeks previous to the annual meeting, a statement in detail, showing the amount of meat received from and delivered to each member.

2. For his services the butcher shall receive the hide of each animal slaughtered and the sum ofdollars, which sum shall be paid to him by each member at the time when his animal is delivered to the butcher.

3. Each member shall furnish an animal for slaughter in his turn as determined by lot, or otherwise arranged, at the annual meeting.

4. Animals supplied for slaughter shall be such as will dress between 400 and 600 pounds and shall not be more than three years old in the case of females or four years old in the case of steers. Bulls shall not be accepted nor cows giving milk.

5. Each member shall deliver his animal at the place of slaughter at or before 9 a.m. on the day appointed for slaughter.

6. The member furnishing an animal shall be entitled to and receive the rough tallow, head, heart and liver of the same.

7. The season's operations shall commence in the week in May and shall extend over weeks. Each week an animal shall be slaughtered on evening, and members shall come to the butcher for their meat before o'clock on the following morning.

8. All animals supplied up to the end of the second week in June shall be stall fed, and meat from these shall be valued, for purposes of settlement, at cents per pound. The meat from all other animals supplied shall be valued at cents per pound.

9. Each member shall leave with the butcher each week a bag plainly marked with the member's name; upon cutting up the carcass the butcher shall place each member's portion in his respective bag.

10. All accounts with the ring shall be settled before the annual meeting. Otherwise interest at per cent. per annum will be charged from that date until the date of payment.

11. No member shall have the privilege of withdrawing from the ring without the consent of the majority of the members, and in no case will a member be allowed to withdraw until his account with the ring is settled in full.

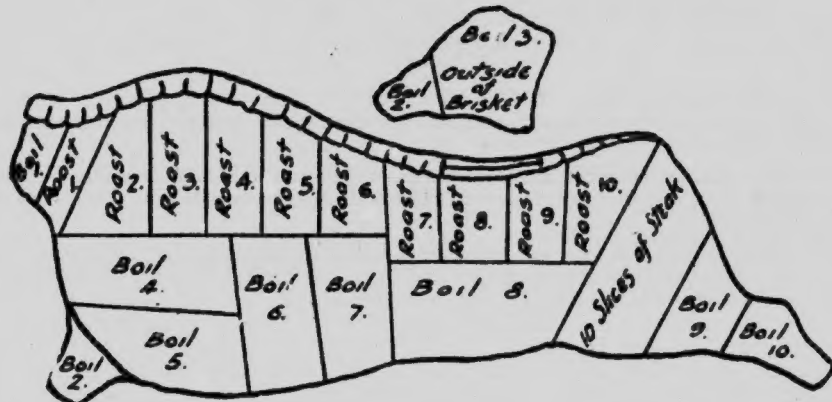


PLATE NO. 1

Division of half carcass for twenty member ring. See page 23.

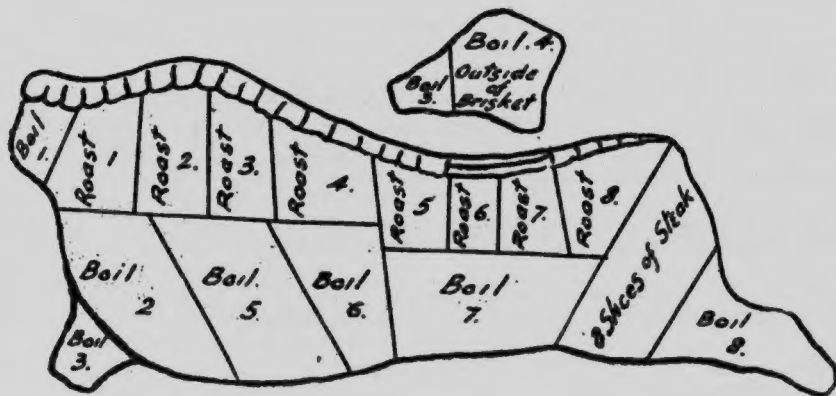


PLATE NO. 2

Division of half carcass for sixteen member ring. See page 23.

DIVIDING THE CARCASS.

The carcass is first cut in two in the ordinary way by sawing lengthwise through the backbone. Each half is then cut up and divided among half of the members in the ring. Plate No. 1 illustrates the method of dividing one-half of the carcass among ten members, *e.g.* one-half a twenty member ring. Plate No. 2 shows how the division is made for a sixteen member ring. On any given slaughter date, the member supplying the animal should receive share No. 1. The member whose turn it is to supply the next animal should get share No. 2 and so on through. In a twenty member ring shares No. 1 and No. 11 will be alike, one being cut from one-half of the carcass and the other being the same cuts, but from the other half of the carcass. In a sixteen member ring shares No. 1 and No. 9 will likewise be alike.

The following is suggested as an equitable division for a twenty member ring. Of course, the heaviness of fleshing will vary in different animals and the cuts will have to be varied accordingly, but by exercising care the butcher will soon be able to make a satisfactory division.

Members No.	1 and No.	11	Roast	Boil	
"	"	2	1	5	1 slice of steak
"	"	3	2	6	1 " "
"	"	4	3	7	1 " "
"	"	5	4	8	1 " "
"	"	6	5	9	1 " "
"	"	7	6	10	1 " "
"	"	8	7	1	1 " "
"	"	9	8	2	1 " "
"	"	10	9	3	1 " "
"	"	11	10	4	1 " "

For a sixteen member ring the division could be made as follows:

Members No.	1 and No.	9	Roast	Boil	
"	"	2	1	5	1 slice of steak
"	"	3	2	6	1 " "
"	"	4	3	7	1 " "
"	"	5	4	8	1 " "
"	"	6	5	1	1 " "
"	"	7	6	2	2 " "
"	"	8	7	3	1 " "
"	"	9	8	4	1 " "

N.B.—The writer realises that beef rings are not, strictly speaking, producing associations, but in view of the numerous requests received for information in regard to this topic, it was decided to deal with the question in this bulletin.

For copies of this bulletin or information regarding any phase of agricultural co-operation write the Co-operative Organisation Branch, Department of Agriculture, Regina, Saskatchewan.

LIST OF BULLETINS AND PAMPHLETS

The following publications can be obtained free on request from the Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.:

LIVE STOCK—

Annual Report Live Stock Branch.
Live Stock Industry in Saskatchewan.
Horse Breeding in Saskatchewan.
Care and Feeding of Work Horses.
Care and Feeding of Beef Cattle.
Care and Feeding of Sheep.
Care and Feeding of Swine.
Hog Cholera.
Blackleg.
Foot and Mouth Disease.
Stallion Enrolment and Registration.
The Horse Breeders' Act.
The Brands Act.

DAIRYING AND POULTRY—

Annual Report Dairy Branch.
Care and Feeding of Dairy Cattle.
Grading of Cream.
The Care of Milk and Cream on the Farm.
Fleshing of Chickens for Market.
The Dairymen's Act.

BUILDINGS—

Planning the Farmstead and Buildings.
Plans and Specifications for Farm Barn.
Housing and Fencing for Sheep.
Plans of Colony Pig Pens.
Plans and Specifications for a Portable Poultry House.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Annual Report Bureau of Labour.
Annual Report Game Branch.
Annual Report Statistics Branch.
Agricultural Co-operative Associations Act.
Farm Forestry.

SOIL CULTIVATION—

Growing Profitable Crops on the Drier Lands of Saskatchewan.
The Management of Saskatchewan Soils.
Dry Farming in Saskatchewan.
Pioneer Problems.
Better Farming.

FARM CROPS—

Fodder Corn.
Hints to Flax Growers.
Seed and Seeding.
Annual Report of the Weed and Seed Branch.
Alfalfa.
Winter Rye.

MARKETING—

Co-operative Live Stock Marketing.
Grain Markets Commission Report.
Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company Act.
Report of the Elevator Commission.

HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE—

The Farm Kitchen and Home-made Cooker.
Household Conveniences.
Hints on Home Nursing.
Tested Recipes.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Hand Book on Saskatchewan.
Opportunities in Saskatchewan.
Business Guide.
Public Service Monthly.